

2nd Place

A BEAUTY WORTH KEEPING

THE CALM FOREST, SO PEACEFUL, SO JOYFUL. CHICKADEES SOUND  
SOMEWHERE OFF  
IN THE DISTANCE. A SMALL BUT DETERMINED CHIPMUNK  
SCAMPERS ALONG  
TRYING TO FIND FOOD.

SMALL FISH LINGER  
AT THE WATER'S EDGE.  
THEY WATCH EAGER FACES GATHER ROUND.  
RUSHING WATERFALLS POUR  
DOWN, DOWN, DOWN  
INTO SMOOTH, PLACID  
SURFACED PONDS.

RUSTLING LEAVES FILL THE AIR  
WITH SOUND  
THE RED AND ORANGE COLOR LIKE THE BEAUTIFUL SUNSET,  
BEING CRUNCHED BENEATH MANY FEET.  
THE DAYS WILL NEVER BE COLORLESS.

NOW, TURQUOISE MIST  
SHEDS FROM MY SKIN WITH  
A GENTLE BREEZE.  
I AM INTRIGUED WITH  
A HARMONIOUS DRAGONFLY  
AND ITS BEAUTIFUL COLORS.  
THE BEAUTY SHOULD BE EVERLASTING,  
FOR OURSELVES AND  
FOR OUR CHILDREN.

Second Place  
Ashley  
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Dana, NC